

President proclaims November as National Veterans and Military Families Month

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

For 98 years, Americans have remembered those who served our country in uniform on Nov. 11, first as Armistice Day, and then, since 1954, as Veterans Day. In this 99th year of commemoration, the Department of Veterans Affairs is broadening that tradition of observance and appreciation to include both Veterans and Military Families for the entire month of November.

In a proclamation dated Nov. 1, U.S. President Donald Trump said, "During National Veterans and Military Families Month, we honor the significant contributions made by American service members, their families and their loved ones. We set aside this month surrounding Veterans Day to hold observances around the country to honor and thank those whose service and sacrifice represent the very best of America. We renew our Nation's commitment to support veterans and military families. They deserve it."

In Florence, the community gathers for several events to thank veterans and honor their service.

The public is invited to the Florence Elks Lodge, 1686 12th St., from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday to hear a short presentation and enjoy a musical salute to all U.S. military

Youth participate at the 2016 Veterans Day Parade in Historic Old Town Florence.

branches. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River will present the colors.

Then, at 2 p.m., Florence Veteran's Day Parade organizers invite the community to join them in honoring the service and sacrifice of U.S. Armed Forces members and veterans during the annual Veterans Day Parade.

The 2017 Grand Marshals are Korean War Veterans.

The Korean War is often referred to as "The Forgotten War."

Parade organizers said, "We make a pledge that these veterans will be forgotten no more. We will have them up front to take the first salutes and cheers of our crowds. We have much to thank them for and for this reason above the rest, we salute our Korean War veterans."

Great viewing locations for the parade include Harbor Street, the Port of Siuslaw parking lot and Historic Old Town Florence, especially Bay Street.

Tributes and treats for veterans will be available at the Veteran's Memorial Park on Bay Street at the end of the parade.

After the parade concludes, Spruce Point Assisted Living, 375 Ninth St., is hosting a



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

Veterans Day Social from 4 to 5 p.m. People are encouraged to come meet some of the assisted living's veterans and enjoy light refreshments. For more information, call 541-997-6111.

In addition, local businesses may be offering Veterans Day specials to veterans and active military members. The U.S. Forest Service will even waive fees at day-use recreation sites in Oregon and Washington, including the Siuslaw National Forest, on Saturday and Sunday

in honor of Veterans Day.

"Our veterans have bravely and proudly carried the burden of defending this country by their honorable service during war and peacetime. And for that, there are no words to express our gratitude," Florence Veterans Day Parade organizers said. "Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and the Coast Guard have all given their time, and many times their lives, to protect our freedoms. They answered the call when our

Brothers from 1A

"I saw too many movies that showed trench warfare. And it didn't make sense to me," John said. "Somebody yells 'Charge!' and you jump out of the trench and run. And the bad guys mow you down with machine guns. The guys defending their trenches have the advantage over the guys running at them. I did not want to be drafted into the Army and end up in a trench somewhere, in some miserable stinking hole, so I enlisted in the Navy."

John signed up to serve his country right after graduating from high school in Los Angeles. John now lives with his younger brother Bill, who is 84 and also a veteran.

The two men share a warm, tidy home in Glenada, having moved in together in 2007. The brothers have each lost their wives and two more brothers who also served in the military.

John's eyes lit up when he discussed the time he served as a machinist and gunner in

WWII. He worked on a supply vessel and his ship was torpedoed as it made a run in support of the battle of Anzio.

Anzio is one of the most infamous of battles of WWII, due in large part to the casualties endured by both sides. In all, 12,000 combatants were killed in this battle for Italy, and 60,000 soldiers, from both sides, were wounded or went missing in action.

The battle for Anzio was brutal and bloody and was so poorly fought by the Allies

that the original commander of the operation, Major General John P. Lucas, was replaced after being outmaneuvered by his German and Italian counterparts.

John remembers not being overly concerned when the first torpedo struck his ship.

Bill sat nearby, listening intently and gently clarified times and places for his older brother as John related his stories of WWII.

"I was on the 8 p.m. to midnight watch in the engine

room that night," John said. "I got off at midnight and went to my bunk, which was the lowest one, and they were all stacked up above me. I remember I was glad to get to my bunk. I was tired and, at about 2 a.m., there was a big explosion. All the chains on the bunks above me broke, and they all fell down on top of me. I couldn't get out."

See **BROTHERS 8A**

nation needed them most. And now they deserve our honor and respect."

The president concluded his proclamation by saying, "I encourage all communities, all sectors of society and all

Americans to acknowledge and honor the service, sacrifices and contributions of veterans and military families for what they have done and for what they do every day to support our great Nation."

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- Friday and Saturday, December 1 & 2, 10 am - 2 pm.
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- Some of the sale items will be... **Tupperware, Pampered Chef and Scentsy.**
- Lots of hand-made and unique items. You know you want to come!!!!
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120 Maple Street
Phone: 541-997-4435
Hours Open: Wed-Fri noon-5pm,
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun. noon-5pm

Classes, Workshops & Events

Next Art Change-Out Day
Monday, November 13th, 9-11 am
Please pick up your artwork and bring something new to help keep the art at FRAA fresh to our visitors.

Holiday Arts Festival
Held at the FEC, Friday, December 1st 1-7 pm and Saturday, December 2nd 10 am - 4 pm
Join us, do your Christmas shopping and support and visit with your local artist friends.

Open Studio @ FRAA, Thursdays
No registration required. Drop-in, bring your materials, and create. All artistic mediums welcome.
Every Thursday, 1-4 pm

**Whimsical Hand Building
Ceramics w/ Alissa Clark**
Wednesdays, 3-5 pm & Thursdays, 6-8 pm
Open Lab Ceramics on Saturdays
Drop in, work at own pace. Sat 12-5 pm
All ceramics classes held at Alissa's Studio, 180 Laurel Street. Call Alissa with questions: 503-857-5222

NEW! Big Wave Poetry 1st Tuesday Open Mic
FRAA will be hosting the Big Wave Poetry's 1st Tuesday Open Mic events each month. The next one is December 5th, 6:30 pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Catherine Rourke will be back in 2018 with new Creative Writing Workshops!

Painting with John Leasure
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm
Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
Contact: jleasure@hotmail.com or 541-991-2754 for details and fees.

Oil Painting with Michael Wood
Wednesdays 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Contact: fmwood@msn.com for fees and more information.

FRAA Holiday Closures
We will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. We will shorten our open hours to 12-3 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

For more information about classes, visit fraaoregon.org. To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our art center on Maple Street.

VETERANS DAY

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November 11, 2017

FLORENCE VETERANS DAY PARADE

NOVEMBER 11, 2017

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle..."
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PARADE BEGINS AT 2PM

Great viewing along the Port Parking Lot and Bay Street.
Tributes and treats for Veterans will be available at Veterans Memorial Park

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